

What is claimed:

1. A device for retracting body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical
5 procedures comprising:
an elongated element adapted to be removably mounted to a diagnostic or surgical
procedure table;
an elongate arm adapted to be slidably mounted on said elongated element, said
elongate arm having a plurality of open channels;
10 a plurality of flexible elements adapted to be received on said elongate arm; and
a gripping device connected to each of said plurality of flexible elements, where
said gripping device grasps and retracts body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical
procedures.

15 2. The device according to claim 1 wherein said flexible elements comprise a
plurality of raised portions adapted to be received by said open channels.

20 3. The device according to claim 2 wherein said raised portions define
generally a circular area.

4. The device according to claim 1 wherein said elongate arm defines
generally a curved area.

25 5. The device according to claim 1 wherein said gripping device is
bifurcated.

6. The device according to claim 1 further comprising a material covering
said gripping device.

30 7. The device according to claim 6 wherein said material is made of an
elastomeric material.

8. The material according to claim 6 wherein said material is replaceable.

9. A method for retracting body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical
5 procedures, the method comprising the steps of:
positioning a device over the body skin folds, said device comprising an
elongated element adapted to be removably mounted to a diagnostic or surgical procedure
table; an elongate arm adapted to be slidably mounted on said elongated element, said
elongate arm having a plurality of open channels; a plurality of flexible elements adapted
10 to be received on said elongate arm, said flexible elements having a plurality of raised
portions adapted to be received by said open channels; and a gripping device connected
to each of said plurality of flexible elements;
grasping the body skin folds with said gripping device connected to each of said
plurality of flexible elements; and
15 positioning said flexible elements through said open channels of said elongate
arm wherein said raised portions hold each flexible element in a temporary fixed position
retracting body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said raised portions define
20 generally a circular area.

11. The method according to claim 9 wherein said elongate arm defines
generally a curved area.

25 12. The method according to claim 9 wherein said gripping device is
bifurcated.

13. The method according to claim 9 wherein said device further comprises a
material covering said gripping device.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein said material is made of an elastomeric material.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein said material is replaceable.